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PROFESSIONAL COMPLIMENTARY PICTURES ON TUESDAY AND FRIDAY

SUNDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

MONDAY:

ANDERSON BAHAMON
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

TUESDAY:

JEAN PAUL
SAXOPHONIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

WEDNESDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

THURSDAY:

MARRYBELL MADURO
SINGER
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

FRIDAY:

MAILLEYN ALVARADO
VIOLINIST
7:00 TO 9:00 P.M.

SATURDAY:

RICKY THOMAS
GUITAR
6:30 TO 8:30 P.M.

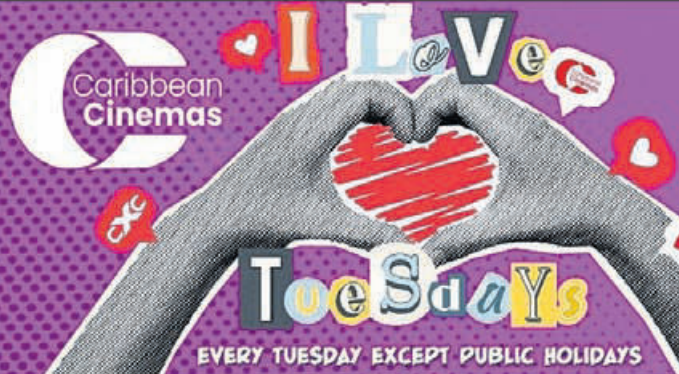


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AI united Altman and Musk, then drove them apart

New York, United States

Elon Musk and Sam Altman bonded over artificial intelligence in a project that became OpenAI, but a clash of visions will see the polarizing figures face off in court in a trial that opens next week.

Silicon Valley lore traces their first meeting back to 2012, in an encounter prompted by investor Geoff Ralston.

Nearly 14 years younger than Musk, who was born

in June of 1971, Altman was said to be impressed by the Tesla chief's powers of persuasion.

While yet to reach the age of 30, Altman already had a tech world reputation as a brilliant dealmaker.

Altman's unassuming, friendly demeanor contrasted sharply with Musk's abrasive style, but they shared an entrepreneurial spirit and a penchant for risk-taking.

Libertarian Musk and the

apolitical Altman found common ground in a shared belief about the future of AI.

Musk saw Google, and its subsidiary DeepMind, as out to create AI that thinks sharper than people do with little regard for controlling it.

Just months before OpenAI was officially founded in early 2015, Altman published a blog post calling for measures to "limit the



This combination of pictures created on December 27, 2024 shows Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI, speaking during The Wall Street Journal's WSJ Tech Live Conference in Laguna Beach, California on October 17, 2023 and Elon Musk listening as US President-elect Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with House Republicans at the Hyatt Regency hotel in Washington, DC on November 13, 2024.

threat" posed by AI, complete with concrete proposals.

This philosophy was set as the guiding principle at OpenAI: born a non-profit organization dedicated to the responsible advancement of AI and boasting a commitment to making its research and source code freely accessible to the public.

Altman successfully pitched the OpenAI concept to Musk, who went on to invest at least \$38 million to get the nascent entity established.

- Altruistic AI? -

In February of 2018, the South Africa-born entrepreneur behind Tesla, SpaceX and other companies resigned from OpenAI's board to ostensibly focus on his other commercial endeavors.

Behind the scenes, however, Musk and Altman were clashing over a proposed shift of OpenAI to a for-profit business that could attract investors in the capital-intensive AI race.

OpenAI completed that transformation in 2025, some three years after its ChatGPT digital assistant

made AI and those who build it all the rage in the tech world.

After years as a champion of an approach in which AI serves society rather than corporate coffers, Musk muddled his message by launching a private xAI startup in July of 2023.

The mission statements for xAI and its chatbot Grok give scant mention to dangers of the technology even though Musk once called it an "existential threat" to humanity.

The rift between Altman and Musk widened as the world's richest man moved to Texas and became an ally of US President Donald Trump while OpenAI stayed in San Francisco and focused on improving its technology.

Musk has used his social media platform X to go on the offensive with posts that include likening Altman to a "Game of Thrones" character seen as a master manipulator.

Musk, 54, even filed a lawsuit seeking to oust 41-year-old Altman as OpenAI chief executive. Selection of jurors in a trial for that case is set for Monday. □



WEEKLY LIVE SHOWS 8PM

MON	LATIN DANCE SHOW <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
WED	CULTURAL DANCE SHOW <i>By Youth in Action</i>
THU	ACROBATIC PERFORMANCE <i>By RCC Aruba</i>
SUN	VIOLIN SHOW <i>By Angela Flores</i>

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9:30

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'Looming' risk of nuclear arms race, U.N. proliferation meeting hears

United Nations, United States

Signatories of the landmark nuclear non-proliferation treaty began a meeting Monday at the United Nations as fears of a renewed arms race escalate, with atomic powers again at loggerheads over safeguards. In 2022, during the last review of the treaty considered the cornerstone of non-proliferation, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned humanity was "one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation."

On Monday he warned "the drivers" of nuclear weapons proliferation were accelerating.

"For too long, the treaty has been eroding. Commitments remain unfulfilled. Trust and credibility are wearing thin. The drivers of proliferation are accelerating. We need to breathe life into the treaty once more," Guterres said in opening remarks.

With global geopolitical friction only heightened since the last meeting, it was unclear what the gathering at UN headquarters could achieve.

France's Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot told signatories that "never has the risk of nuclear proliferation been so high, and the threat posed by Iran's and North Korea's programs is intolerable for each and every state party to this treaty."

Tempering expectations,



U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during the 11th Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 27, 2026.

Do Hung Viet, Vietnam's UN ambassador and president of the conference, said "we should not expect this conference to resolve the underlying strategic tensions of our time."

"But a balanced outcome that reaffirms core commitments and set out practical steps forward would strengthen the integrity of the NPT," he said.

"The success or failure of this conference will have implications way beyond these halls," Viet added. "The prospects of a new nuclear arms race are looming over us."

The nuclear non-prolifer-

ation treaty (NPT), signed by almost all countries on the planet -- with notable exceptions including Israel, India and Pakistan -- aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote complete disarmament, and encourage cooperation on civilian nuclear projects.

The nine nuclear-armed states -- Russia, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea -- possessed 12,241 nuclear warheads in January 2025, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported.

The U.S. and Russia hold

nearly 90 percent of nuclear weapons globally and have carried out major programs to modernize them in recent years, according to SIPRI. China has also rapidly increased its nuclear stockpile, SIPRI said, with the G7 raising the alarm Friday over Moscow and Beijing boosting their nuclear capabilities. U.S. President Donald Trump has indicated his intention to conduct new nuclear tests, accusing others of doing so clandestinely.

In March, French President Emmanuel Macron announced a dramatic shift in nuclear deterrence, notably an increase in the atomic

arsenal, currently numbering 290 warheads.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi, just returned from 40th anniversary events at Chernobyl to mark the nuclear disaster there, said "there is a growing perception that perhaps having nuclear weapons could be good for national security."

"Nothing is further from the truth," he said.

- 'Affront' to NPT -

"It is obvious that trust is eroding, both inside and outside the NPT," Seth Sheldon of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, told AFP.

He questioned the likely outcome of the four-week summit.

Decisions on the NPT require agreement by consensus, with the previous two conferences failing to adopt final political declarations.

In 2015, the deadlock was largely due to opposition by Israel's arch-ally Washington to creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

A 2022 impasse was due mainly to Russian opposition to references to Ukraine's nuclear power plant at Zaporizhzhia, occupied by Moscow.

This year's summit could hit any number of stumbling blocks. □

Trump orders new, blue surface for Washington's Reflecting Pool

Washington, United States

Workers on Saturday were resurfacing the bottom of Washington's famous Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool with "American flag blue"-colored material used in swimming pools, following an order by US President Donald Trump.

The project -- part of the capital city's sprucing up ahead of the nation's 250th anniversary celebrations on July 4 -- will cost about \$1.5 million and take roughly three weeks, Trump told reporters Thursday.

The 2,000-foot (610-meter) pool between the Wash-

ington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial "was in terrible shape," said Trump, who was a long-time real estate developer before entering politics.

"It was filthy, dirty and it leaked like a sieve for many years," he said in a White House video about the plan. Built in 1922-1923, the pool has become a key landmark in the US capital. Civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech overlooking the reflecting pool in 1963.

Trump said he rejected a

proposal to replace the stone in the bottom, a plan he said would cost \$300 million and take three years. Instead, he contacted contractors he had previously used, and they said using the swimming pool surface would cost much less and be completed in a fraction of the time.

"I've built more than 100 swimming pools in different buildings," Trump told reporters, referring to his project as "a business study."

The contractors have cleaned the bottom and begun pouring the "industrial-grade" substance and



Crews resurface the bottom of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool with a new blue coating in Washington, DC on April 25, 2026.

will be finished in a matter of days, he said.

"You're going to end up with a beautiful, beautiful reflecting pool, the way it's supposed to be. Much better than it ever was," he said.

Trump has embarked on several other major renovations in Washington, including demolishing the East Wing of the White House, where he aims to build a huge ballroom. □

'Stigmatized' or 'sustainable'? Vintage sales boost sees fur return

New York, United States

Laura Jacobs thought she'd never wear animal fur, having witnessed years of protests over its use in clothing -- until suddenly she started spotting it all over New York. Jacobs fished out the long mink her grandmother left her years ago and took it to a Manhattan furrier to give it a second act.

Fur "was stigmatized for so long," Jacobs told AFP, posing before a full-length mirror and assessing a potential crop.

But the return of real fur "fits with everything that's going on with recycling and bringing back vintage," she said. "I never would have bought a fur coat," Jacobs said, adding that the thought of "killing animals like that" gave her pause.

But "this felt like I was recycling it," she said.

New York is thawing out after a particularly cruel winter that's included debates over fur's revival as influencers push the look and retail sites report a jump in searches for vintage pieces.

Business owners like Larry Cowit -- who inherited and runs his family's Madison Avenue Furs -- are celebrating a sales spike.

"I have girls as young as 20 years old walking in, coming in from college, and putting on a fox jacket," Cowit told AFP. "We haven't seen that in quite a while."

Noelle Sciacca -- head of fashion at the high-end resale site The RealReal -- said "interest in fur has acceler-



Larry Cowit, owner of Madison Avenue Furs shop, selects fur coats for a customer in his store in New York City, on March 10, 2026.

ated dramatically," with searches for vintage fur on their website nearly tripling in 2025 from 2024.

The trend is "booming across the board," she told AFP, "but real fur is clearly leading the surge."

Sciacca owes part of the interest to "sustainable, accessible resale options," which she said "has made consumers feel comfortable embracing fur as both stylish and thoughtful."

- Muddled public opinion -

The global fashion industry's use of fur has been on the outs for decades.

Synthetic, cheaper alternatives have gained traction, and animal rights activists continue to push dropping the real thing. Demonstrators recently urged Milan Fashion Week to go fully fur-free.

New York's Fashion Week fur ban goes into effect in September 2026.

Many major designers have vowed to stop using it, including Prada, Michael Kors and Saint Laurent.

The European Commission meanwhile is reviewing a citizen's initiative that drew millions of signatures urging an EU-wide ban on fur farming. A spokesperson told AFP the commission would communicate in the coming weeks whether it would propose such a prohibition. Yet the culture's court of public opinion has grown muddled, notably as concerns about fast fashion and petroleum-based materials grow.

"I always imagine all of the faux-fur coats being pro-

duced right now melting into a puddle of plastic. The idea of reuse and recycling can include vintage fur," Vogue archivist Laird Borrelli-Persson said in comments recently published by the fashion magazine.

"The question for me is whether wearing vintage fur increases the appetite for lookalikes -- either faux or new fur."

Real fur coats demand consistent upkeep. The skins contain natural oils, and garments not kept in a temperature-controlled environment -- ideally off-season in cold vaults -- can dry out and disintegrate.

"It's biodegradable," said Cowit.

But Ashley Byrne of animal rights group PETA said buying vintage under the banner of

sustainability is "well-meaning but misguided."

She told AFP that shoppers who didn't grow up exposed to footage from inside fur farms should "understand that wearing any fur that came from the back of an animal who was tortured and killed is endorsing things that we're sure they do not want to support."

- Online influence -

Cowit said their ratio of vintage to new fur sales is now approximately 70 to 30. Pre-owned coats can go anywhere from \$500 to \$10,000, and the average mink is \$1,500 to \$1,800, he said.

He credits the internet with boosting business: "The influencers on social media have really changed the whole world."

Part of the online drive stems from the "mob wife" aesthetic that's trended on TikTok in recent years, looks featuring flashy jewelry, animal prints, and -- you guessed it -- fur. Madison Avenue Furs' Instagram features Cowit's niece posing on the shop's balcony in a variety of plush coats recalling "Sopranos"-esque fashion.

Stylist Renee May, who stopped by with shoppers looking to modernize their grandmother's coats and check out new jackets, told AFP "a lot of my clients are wearing their furs again."

Nicole Bellmier, 36, called the look "very nostalgic."

"It's something to pass down to our children," her cousin Dominique Defonte added. □



U.S. singer Taylor Swift performs on stage during "The Eras Tour" at the Hard Rock stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, October 18, 2024.

New York, United States

Taylor Swift has filed applications with the U.S. intellectual property office

to trademark her voice, a move similar to one made

Taylor Swift files to trademark her voice amid AI clone boom

by actor Matthew McConaughey, as AI-generated content surges.

The singer submitted two sound recordings to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). Each begins with "Hey, it's Taylor" and announces the release of her latest album, "The Life of a Showgirl," which was released in early October.

Another document submitted to the USPTO on Friday was a photo of the artist on

stage. The submissions were first spotted by intellectual property attorney Josh Gerben.

The filings give no further details about the submission.

Contacted by AFP, Taylor Swift's publicist did not immediately respond.

McConaughey has in recent years pursued an application with the USPTO, framed as protection against the unauthorized use of his voice by AI mod-

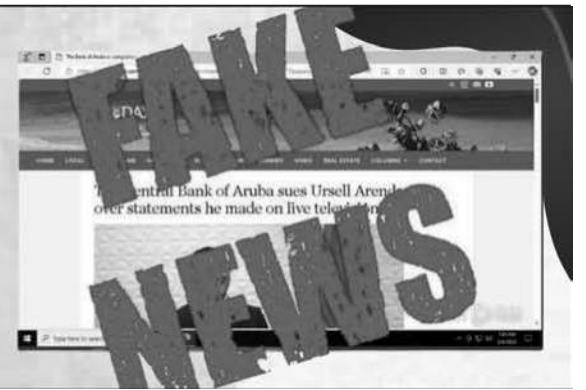
els.

They include audio of him saying "Alright, alright, alright!" -- his memorable line from the 1993 film "Dazed and Confused" -- along with audio of him saying "Just keep livin', right?" followed by additional short phrases. Advances in AI models now make it possible to synthesize a voice in seconds from a short clip, whereas just a few years ago the process required lengthy recordings and several days. □

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Swiss canton votes with centuries-old show of hands



Citizens vote by raising their hands during the Landsgemeinde, a traditional public, non-secret ballot conducted by majority rule, in Appenzell, eastern Switzerland, on April 26, 2026.

Appenzell, Switzerland

Every late April, the tiny Swiss canton of Appenzell Innerrhoden votes for local leaders and magistrates in accordance with a tradition dating back to the 15th century: a show of hands in the town square.

This year's Landsgemeinde open-air assembly, held as always on the last Sunday of April, drew several thousand people under the blazing sun in Appenzell, capital of the eponymous German-speaking north-eastern canton of 17,000 inhabitants.

After a slow-paced ceremonial march through the town, thousands of citizens crowded into the roped-off voting perimeter inside the Landsgemeindeplatz square.

The tradition dates back to 1403, when only men willing to fight to defend their community had the right to vote.

As per custom, the majority of men carried their swords on Sunday -- still effectively voter ID.

Appenzell Innerrhoden's women have only participated in cantonal voting since 1991 -- more than 20

years after gaining the right to vote in national elections.

Over several hours this April, the citizens voted on the questions put to them, with curious tourists watching on from restaurant terraces.

"Standing together with other people, you can experience politics with all your senses," said centrist lawyer Angela Koller, the Regierende Landammann, or head of the cantonal government -- the first woman to hold the position.

"The issues are explained again, there's discussion, and I think you experience politics in a completely different way."

As it is not a secret ballot, the voting system "isn't perfect", she told AFP.

However, "I believe we have a culture here where people can tolerate that, where they know they have different opinions," the 42-year-old said.

Constitutional, legislative and financial issues are also discussed and voted on.

A revision of policing laws and a project on cycle paths were both approved.

- Passion and democracy -

Appenzell Innerrhoden and Glarus are the last of Switzerland's 26 cantons to practice this kind of annual direct democracy.

With its cultural heritage rooted in Catholicism and rural life, Appenzell Innerrhoden is Switzerland's smallest canton by population, with Glarus not much bigger with 42,000 residents. Zurich and Bern, the two largest, each have over a million.

"Clearly it is no longer possible in the big cantons, but here we see the tradition of democracy and also the tradition surrounding the Landsgemeinde," Switzerland's Defence Minister Martin Pfister, a guest of honour, told AFP.

"There were lots of people who were passionate about the issues.

"That's great. It's what democracy is all about: having a discussion on the issues, then voting, and in a few seconds, it's decided." Ursulina, a 31-year-old voter, said: "It's really important to take the rights we have and go vote. I think it's nice to have it direct and to talk with people about it and to hear arguments directly."

Steep mountainside offers respite for daring Afghans



An Afghan boy enjoys rolling down a steep and sandy mountainside on a weekend at the Sayad area of Reg-e-Rawan in Kapisa province on April 24, 2026.

Kapisa Province, Afghanistan

Backflipping down a steep and sandy mountainside, Afghan teenager Imran Saeedi wows the crowds of men who gather each springtime to unwind beside breathtaking views. Hundreds of visitors travel each weekend to Reg-e-Rawan -- "the moving sands" in Dari -- to practice parkour or roll down the honey-coloured sand in Kapisa province.

"I feel afraid when I'm going for a flip or a jump, and of course I can get injured," said 16-year-old Saeedi, who nonetheless loves the thrill.

"When the week starts, I'm just waiting for the weekend so I can come to Reg-e-Rawan to have fun again," said the high school student.

Men and boys clapped in admiration as he ran down the hill and flipped forwards, then backwards, while his friends filmed on their phones.

Less daring onlookers sat atop rocks surrounding the mountain, picnicking together and enjoying the scenery.

Reg-e-Rawan is off limits to women and girls, who are banned by the Taliban au-

thorities from recreational spots such as parks.

Families with women were turned away when AFP journalists visited, while officials under the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice patrolled the area.

- 'Humans need nature' -

Mirwais Kamran, a 48-year-old businessman, had driven three hours north from the capital Kabul with some of his 12 children.

"I feel joy when I come here with my children and friends," said Kamran, who climbed up the slope but stopped short of rolling down.

Nusratullah Nusrat, the provincial head of tourism at the Kapisa Department of Information and Culture, said the site dates back thousands of years.

"The unique feature of this place is that the sand never decreases despite people climbing up and sliding down," he told AFP. Some people believe rolling in the sand also helps treat rheumatism, added Nusrat.

For visitors such as Nohzatullah Ahmadzai, who travelled from Kabul with a group of friends, Reg-e-Rawan lifts his mood. □

From Adele to Raye, the UK school nurturing future stars

London, United Kingdom

If there was a recipe for success in the entertainment industry, the BRIT School in London should maybe get a standing ovation for hitting all the right notes.

Singers Amy Winehouse, Adele and Raye, as well as actor Tom Holland -- better known as Spiderman -- are among the alumni of the state funded school, which prides itself on being free. 2026 started strong, with former pupils Olivia Dean and Lola Young both honoured at the Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.

Dean was named best new artist of the year, while Young won Best Pop Solo Performance with her soar-away hit "Messy".

Both artists also triumphed at the Brit Awards, the UK's flagship music ceremony.

"It's incredibly humbling," said Chris McInnes, their former teacher and deputy head of music at the BRIT School, which specialises in performing and creative arts.

"We would never take credit for any of their success ... we want to make the best place for those students who are going to be that successful," he told AFP.

About 1,500 students, aged between 14 and 19, attend the BRIT School, where they study for and sit the regular UK curriculum exams, including GCSEs and A levels.

Teenagers arrive for their



Principal Stuart Worden poses for a portrait at The BRIT School in Croydon, south London, on April 14, 2026.

day smiling, greeting teachers and the headmaster as they make their way through the corridors.

Some sing snatches of songs. Others work quietly in recording studios.

Behind one door, a group was rehearsing a number from the musical "Six".

- Cultural diversity -

Keyboardist Luke Crown, 18, and singer Naomi Simon, 19, were practising for a May concert.

"It's a very unique place. There's nowhere else that really you can study popular music to this intensity," said Crown.

Naomi Simon has already

had "a really big opportunity" thanks to the school -- singing in the choir that backed chart-topper Raye on her latest album.

None of it would have been possible if the school charged fees, she said.

"My family doesn't come from a place which has lots of money ... so to come to a place where finances isn't an issue for me is amazing," she said.

The school is funded about 80 percent by the state. The rest comes from supporters, including companies, said headmaster Stuart Worden.

"The world needs diverse voices ... and so, every background should be able

to talk about how they feel about the world using the arts," he added.

"Why should only people who can afford ballet lessons and ballet shoes be our dancers?"

Worden has worked at the school for 32 years, after it opened in the early 1990s in a low-income part of Croydon, a culturally diverse south London district.

In the reception, photos of former pupils are displayed: one is a stunt coordinator for movies, another a lighting technician at Eurovision.

- 'Be nice' -

McInnes recently organised a reunion for former students

who left the school a decade ago.

"Whether they were making huge amounts of money or whether they were household names ... 10 years after they left they were still working in the industry," he said. Artists such as Adele, Raye and Dean regularly speak about the BRIT School. Raye still tests new songs with Worden.

"I had the time of my life there. It's not a stage-stage school, but of course there's kids doing pirouettes and going 'Aaaaaahhhhh!' in the hallways," Adele told BBC 4 radio in 2022.

"It was such a melting pot of every single type of teenager ... It was absolute heaven."

During lockdown in 2020, "Tom Holland was one of the first students online giving actor classes from his bedroom," Worden recalled. One piece of advice McInnes gives his students is simple: "Be nice to each other."

"There's so many people with amazing talent, but if you're not an easy person to work with, if you're not reliable, if you're not kind and empathetic, no one is going to want to work with you."

The pupils are also encouraged to step outside their comfort zones. Even if it is their passion, they cannot spend two years just writing R&B songs or playing heavy metal. □



The Joachim-Ma Stradivarius violin is on display during a preview of the violin's auction at Sotheby's in New York City on February 3, 2025.

Strasbourg, France

Has a 300-year-old Stradivarius violin worth \$10 million and stolen by the Nazis during World War II turned up in France?

Pascale Bernheim, an expert

on looted musical instruments, thinks so.

The first clue was an article in a local newspaper.

It reported that violinist Emmanuel Coppey had demonstrated his talent on

Suspected Nazi-looted Stradivarius reappears in France, says expert

several old violins during an evening of wine and music in the city of Colmar in the Alsace region near the German border.

Luthier Nicolo Amati had made the first in 1624, and Antonio Guarneri crafted the second in 1735, Les Dernieres nouvelles d'Alsace said.

The third was made by fellow Italian luthier Antonio Stradivari back to 1719.

"I am absolutely convinced that it is the Lauterbach," named after one of its first owners, Bernheim told AFP. Nazi soldiers stole the violin from a museum in the Pol-

ish capital Warsaw in 1944, according to French newspaper Le Parisien, which investigated the story.

The string instrument survived years in East Germany during the Cold War, then was last seen in France in the early 1990s.

Stradivari made only nine violins in 1719, two of which are missing -- the "Lauterbach" and the "Lautenschlager".

But the "Lautenschlager" has a back made of two pieces of wood -- not one, like the "Lauterbach", the Parisien says.

A classical concert producer named Emmanuel Jaeger organised the wine and music evening in Colmar on March 31.

He had contacted Bernheim in 2017 to trace the origin of a violin owned by Jean-Christophe Graff, a luthier from Strasbourg, she said.

But when late British luthier Charles Beare examined it before he died last year, he said it was a Stradivarius from the luthier's so-called golden period, Bernheim said.

He was worried he was holding a stolen instrument, she added. □

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, present-

ed their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this



fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the

scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea lev-

els and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐



Share your Aruba memories with us!

(Oranjestad)—We at Aruba Today love to hear from our readers. This is why we love our segment "Aruba to me", where we ask our readers to send in their message and pictures sharing what Aruba means to them.

What we also love is creating and sharing memories. This is why we would like to invite you you, our lovely reader, to share your fond memories on the island with us. It could be a photo from the first time you visited island to the pictures you took at that Carnival Parade you attended last week. All is welcome!

Tell us your stories and let us give you a shout-out in our next issue! ☐

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Nights of Culture, Music, and Entertainment at Paseo Herencia



(ORANJESTAD)—As the sun sets, Paseo Herencia comes alive with entertainment that celebrates Aruba's culture, music, and vibrant energy. The open-air plaza transforms into a lively hub where locals and visitors gather to experience the island's rhythm, sights, and flavors. Evenings at Paseo Herencia invite guests to slow down, connect, and enjoy a mix of music, dance, and immersive experiences in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

This month, we proudly celebrate Dia di Betico, a day honoring the life and legacy of Betico Croes, a key figure in Aruba's journey toward autonomy. A beloved traditional Aruban band will perform live on January 25th from 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Known for their authentic rhythms and lively performances, Grupo di Betico brings a strong sense of cultural pride to the plaza, offering both visitors and residents a memorable evening filled with local heritage and island sounds. Weekly programming ensures that every night offers something new. Cultural Wednesdays celebrate Aruba's musical heritage, starting with steelpan music at 7:00 pm and followed by a cultural dance show at 8:00 pm that

highlights traditional movements and storytelling. Saturdays in January are dedicated to Carnaval Nights beginning at 8:00 pm, filling Paseo Herencia with dazzling costumes, lively music, and spirited performances that immerse guests in one of Aruba's most beloved celebrations. The plaza's entertainment continues with themed nightly water show at 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm, and 9:30 pm, creating a natural transition from live performances into the evening's activities.

For younger visitors, the carousel and kids' train provide joyful, memorable experiences that bring a touch of magic to the plaza. Thrill seekers can also enjoy the Airsoft attraction located behind The Lazy Turtle, ensuring that there is entertainment for all ages.

For those continuing the night, Paseo Herencia offers a variety of vibrant nightlife



experiences. Gusto Nightclub is known for high-energy DJ sets, VIP bottle service, and a daily happy hour from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. The club brings together locals and visitors for a lively, unforgettable party atmosphere. Frenchie's Karaoke Bar provides a relaxed outdoor setting where guests can take the stage, sing, and perform while enjoying the support of friendly staff and fellow patrons. Flamingoes Bar offers a social all-ages experience with inventive cocktails, delicious snacks, and a spacious terrace ideal for groups, making it a top choice for music, conversation, and a lively bar vibe.

With stores open daily from 10:00 am to 10:00 pm, visitors can combine shopping, dining, and entertainment into one seamless visit. Parking at Paseo Herencia is complimentary for up to two hours when shopping, dining, or enjoying a movie, simply by presenting a purchase receipt to the parking cashier. Whether visiting for an evening show or staying late into the night, Paseo Herencia offers a complete island experience where music, culture, and entertainment come together to create memorable moments for all ages. □



Feeling parched? Grab refreshment by the side of the road!



(Oranjestad)—Touring the island in the blistering heat can leave one feeling rather thirsty and looking to cool off. Luckily there are a few stands along the roads of Aruba that can offer you just what you need: a nice, refreshing beverage!

These "coconut stands" can be found at several locations on the island, where you can cool off with delicious smoothies, drinks, snacks, and of course, fresh coconuts! Perfect during family outings around the island, these stands can be found in the following locations:

- Near the red Anchor in San Nicolas
- On the Linear Park in Oranjestad (in front of airport runway)
- At the California Light House hill
- Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruin
- Bushiribana Beach

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A new species of “praying mantis” discovered in Aruba

News has recently emerged that a new species of praying mantis has been discovered in Aruba. First reported by the news outlet Nature Today, the discovery came after several posts on the website iNaturalist showed photos of a praying mantis that had not yet been identified by scientists.

Aruba a “gap in the inventory” until now

Before this discovery, Aruba was considered a gap in the inventory of praying mantises in the Caribbean, according to expert Kris Anderson of Cornell University in the United States, who stated this in a report published this year. This is because Aruba had no confirmed records of praying mantises based on earlier specimen research. In a separate study in 2025—conducted by the same author—the Aruban species was mentioned, but this was based only on photographs of the species and not on taxonomic observations of the insect.

On November 25, 2025, a collection expedition was carried out for this species. Led by Luc Willemse, researchers and members of Naturalis collected a few specimens in Arikok National Park and deposited them in the Biodiversity Center museum. This collection marked the first physical record of a mantis documented in Aruba. Notably, the expedition team observed that the species discovered in Aruba showed similarities to a praying mantis species informally designated *Brunneria*, previously found in Brazil. It was

15, *Brunneria xerophila* adult female. Paradera, Aruba 02.08.08 (Photo: Michael Tromp)

Willemse who invited Anderson to formally describe the species.

Classifying the mantis was not easy

According to Anderson in his report, classifying this new species was not as straightforward as expected. In fact, it resulted in a complete reevaluation of the entire group. The main issue, researchers said, was that the identification system for the *Brunneria* group was inconsistent. For example, many characteristics of the group varied depending on perspective, available lighting during observation, and even the sex of the specimen. This made the system unreliable for accurate classification, leading researchers to conclude that the framework needed revision.

To rebuild the classification

framework, scientists used an approach focused on morphometric analysis, measuring features such as torso length, wings, and proportions between body segments. They also conducted anatomical analysis, focusing on patterns that distinguish species and antenna structure. Researchers quickly found that these methods allowed them to distinguish species more accurately, making the system more reliable.

To classify the mantis species found in Aruba, the collected specimens were compared with the newly revised framework. They were also compared with other species found in Latin America, including those that may have been misclassified in the past, as well as with other specimens from the *Brunneria* group.

What they discovered was remarkable: the Aruban specimens showed several unique characteristics. For example, they were smaller compared to other related specimens. Their body proportions were also different, and researchers observed a specific pattern in the small tooth-like structures on their bodies.

Another key finding was that these specimens had adapted to Aruba's hot, dry climate. For this reason, Anderson named the species *Brunneria xerophila*. As explained in Nature Today, “xerophila” is a Greek word meaning “lover of dryness,” referring to the dry climate of Aruba in which the species appears to thrive.

So far, this new species is known only in Aruba. The species *Brunneria xerophila* has shown the ability to adapt

to a dry climate with little rainfall. At the same time, it may be at risk, as scientists consider it ecologically isolated. In other words, it is separated from the American continent by the sea surrounding the island. There is currently no estimate of how many specimens exist on the island, but isolation could lead to reduced gene flow or cause the species to evolve in a unique way. Isolation could also result in the species becoming endemic, especially if no conservation efforts are made.

This discovery shows that even though we are a small island, new discoveries can still be made every day, helping us learn more about our natural environment. It also highlights how much of Aruba's biodiversity remains undocumented.

This is where the Aruba Conservation Foundation plays an important role. ACF, together with the Naturalis Biodiversity Center, collaborates on conservation work, mapping Aruba's biodiversity more effectively. As the organization legally responsible for protecting species on the protected list, ACF carries the responsibility of maintaining healthy populations of these animals—together with volunteers from the community. □

Source and photos: Anderson, K. (2026): Two New Species of *Brunneria* Saussure, 1869 (Mantodea: Coptopterygidae) with Novel Diagnostic Characters and a Key to the Species. Soothsayer, Journal of Mantodea Research. 7 (1): 55–88.



Beaches for the whole family to enjoy!

(Oranjestad)—One of the biggest concerns that parents have when traveling with their children is a guarantee of their safety and healthy enjoyment. Therefore, we thought it would be a great help to traveling parents to list off some the most family-friendly beaches around the island.

Baby Beach in San Nicolas

Baby Beach is one Aruba's most popular and visited beaches, and for good reason: This sandy and quiet lagoon is a great place for parents to sit back and relax while their children play in the shallow shores of the beach. Beside the relaxing atmosphere, there are also several services that may accommodate your stay, like a parking lot, sun tent rentals, chairs, bathrooms and a snack bar right at the far left of the beach.



Mangel Halto in Pos Chiquito

Mangel Halto is situated in the back streets of Pos Chiquito. Though there are several stairs on the sides of the beach cliff leading you down, the best spot for families to hang out is across the bridge, passed the mangrove trees near the entrance sign. Here, there are small and big palapas, perfect for big and small fami-

lies to set up their belongings. In this area, the shore is also shallow, falling right around your knee before slowly getting deeper: perfect for kids to safely play.

Eagle Beach/Palm Beach

Yet another highly popular beach sites, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach is where most of our visitors go to tan, swim or play in the white sand. Be-

cause they are near the low-rise and high-rise hotel areas, these beaches are the most accessible for visitors on foot. These beaches also offer many palapas free to use, but you can also rent chairs and tents. Much like Baby Beach, these sites are one of the best beaches for your children to play and build sand castles.

Boca Catalina in Malmok

Boca Catalina is a small bay beach near the Malmok beach area further down the hotel areas. Though it may not be a very sandy beach, it is relatively quiet and tranquil. This is a great place for family to lay down a big blanket and have a little picnic. This is also one of the best places to snorkel, as this area is filled with little fish and corals, even close to the shore. □



Dining in? Try making some local favorites! How to make "pan bati"

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever up for an Aruban snack, try making another Aruban classic appetizer called Pan Bati. Similar to a pancake both in appearance and cooking, this is a super easy meal that adults and children will both enjoy. Here's how to make it!

Ingredients:

2 cups of all purpose flour
1 cup grams of fine cornmeal
2 tbsp baking powder
1 1/3 cup of milk
1 pinch of salt
2 tbsp of granulated sugar
Oil for cooking

Instructions:

Add all the dry ingredients in a

bowl first, and stir until well mixed. Then add the milk and beat until reached a pancake-like consistency. If more moisture is needed, add some water until reached desired consistency.

In a hot pan with oil, pour in enough batter to cover the bottom of the pan. Just like pancakes, flip the pan bati when one side turns golden brown. When your pan bati is ready, place on a plate and cover with a clean kitchen towel.

Traditionally, pan bati is cut in triangle pieces, and is often eaten as a side dish with soup, fried fish or stews. However, it is also casually enjoyed with some butter and cheese on top! □

The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and its history

(Oranjestad)—The Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins is one of the most visited places by tourists on the island, as it lies along the northern coast line near the mini pool and on the way to the Natural Bridge. Despite its seemingly plain appearance, this ruin represents one of the most important histories of the island: The Aruban Gold Rush.

Built in 1872 by English company Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd, the gold mill at Bushiribana was constructed in the area where most gold was found by locals. The story of gold on Aruba actually dates back to 1725, when a first exploration for gold on the island was commissioned by the Dutch West India Company. Under the leadership of Mr. Paulus Printz, a three-year search was conducted on Aruba, to no avail. Though they found some



gold, it was enough to motivate a further search, and the assignment was discontinued by Printz himself.

It wasn't until 100 years later, in 1824, when a young boy found a lump of gold while out herding his father's sheep. His father took it to a local merchant who then

sold the lump for \$70. Unbeknownst to the boy and his father, they quite literally struck gold, and as word got out, a gold fever spread among the locals who started searching for more gold. About 25 pounds worth was found.

At the same time, the Aru-

ban government took immediate actions, and informed Curacao that gold was found. At first, everyone could look for gold, as long as they sold it to the government. However, after some time, the government decided to implement stricter rules and banned local search parties.

Over the years, concession-holding had seen different companies from around the world, all of which used primitive methods to dig and carve out gold from the rocks. Aruba Island Gold Mining Company Ltd. was no different, but used a unique method that involved grinding the rocks and letting the dust be blown away by the strong northeast wind, leaving clumps of gold behind. The next step was melting the gold and letting it attach to quicksilver in order to obtain pure gold. All these processes were done at the Bushiribana Gold Mill.

The gold mill itself had a short life-span: only 10 years in service, but its structure remained relatively solid till this day, and is now a historical remnant.

Sources: Etnia Nativa

Meet Aruba's biggest hero, Boy Ecury

(Oranjestad)—As part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and due to its strategic geolocation, Aruba was unexpectedly involved in the Second World War. As is known around the globe, this chapter in world history is one of the most tragic yet, and many soldiers and rebels have died on the front line during this time.

One of those rebels who have fought against the Nazi regime, was an Aruban named Segundo Jorge Adelberto "Boy" Ecury. Born in Aruba on April 23rd, 1922, Boy spent his childhood on the island, before being sent to The Netherlands by his father when he was 15 years old to continue his studies abroad. This was in 1937, three years before WWII broke out. During the war, he actively participated in the rebellion in The Netherlands against the Nazi regime, but his rebellious streak and constant drive to fight for justice began even before the war broke out. Being a person of color with a Haitian heritage living in The Netherlands made him vulnerable to discrimination, and this inspired him to be an activist, to stand up and fight against discrimination and oppression.

After seeing the horrific bombings of Rotterdam first-hand, he

decided to join the resistance. At the same time, he was still studying and living with family in Tilburg. It was there where he met people who printed and distributed the rebellion newspaper. This would be the first of three rebellion group that he would join throughout his 4-year service to the resistance. Boy's primary task as member of the group was to distract the German soldiers while others ran into hiding into alleyways. This he was able to do because of his skin color and confronting demeanor. Boy also participated in the multi-



ple sabotaging operations against the German military occupying The Netherlands. These included bombings on German military trucks and trains. The group also helped people go into hiding, as well as opened fire against allies of the Nazi regime. In these operations, Boy really stood out for his cold bloodedness.

In 1943, he received a notice to be placed for work in Germany. This he refused, of course, and went into hiding using multiple addresses in multiple cities. Because he was a wanted man, he of course could not continue to be active as a rebel. However, stubborn and naturally rebellious as he was, he always tried to join in on the operations regardless.

In 1944, after his friend Luis de Lanoy, a fellow rebel from Curacao, was arrested and executed, he moved to Delft, where he joined his third and last group in Rotterdam. During this time, he wrote a goodbye letter for his family, possibly knowing the risks of him being active again in the big cities.

Eventually, he proved himself right. On November 5th, 1944, Boy Ecury was arrested by German soldiers. He was placed in the "Oranjehotel" prison in Scheveningen,



The Hague, where he was questioned. Despite being sold out by an acquaintance, he himself never gave away the names of his comrades. Famously, he told his cell mate: "I will die with a smile on my face."

On November 6th, 1944, Ecury was executed. He was only 22 years old.

Ecury was buried with military honor. In 1949, the Aruban Government erected a monumental bust of him in front of what is now the linear park trail, and in 1984 he received the Resistance Memorial Cross postmortem.

Boy's life motto was this: "In my father's house, there is no place for a traitor." □

Source: "De Kolibrie op de Rots (en meer over the geschiedenis van Aruba)" by Evert Bongers.

CROSSWORD

By **THOMAS JOSEPH**

- ACROSS** 43 Knitting need
1 Suit piece
5 Not nude
9 May, for one

- 10 Romantic one
12 Pond cover
13 Humble

- 14 African city
16 Gratuity
17 Coffee dispenser

- 18 African city
20 Annoys
22 Pretentious

- 23 Egypt's Sadat
25 Racket
28 Put in a mausoleum

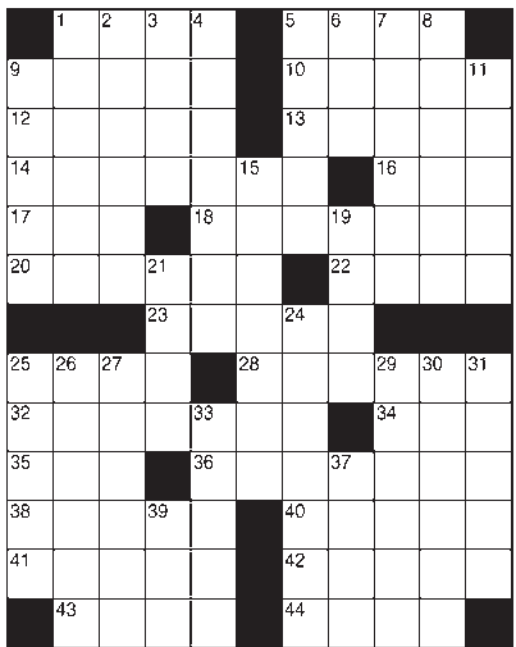
- 32 African city
34 Aussie hopper
35 Suffix for hero

- 36 African city
38 Raft pilot
40 Fads
41 Veep Agnew
42 Extreme pain

- DOWN**
1 Hit song of 1958
2 Train puller
3 Teacher's reward
4 1976 horror movie
5 Assertion
6 High hit
7 Online icon
8 Stop
9 "Stop being a wimp!"



- 11 Settle, as a debt
15 Johnson biographer
19 Homer's son
21 Siren
24 Servant for taverns, e.g.
25 Passes over
26 Bed topper
27 Aviator Earhart
29 Salem's state
30 Entertainer Rita
31 Overbearing
33 Composer Copland
37 Othello's betrayer
39 Screw up



A XYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

5-13

CRYPTOQUOTE

OFY HLN SQN CSFLOSNNKKNL FB

OFYL FVP KWBN, HPT OFY XHP

XLNHSN OFYL FVP KNJNPT,

FL PFS. — WCHINK HKKNPTN
Cryptoquote: RAINY DAYS SHOULD
BE SPENT AT HOME WITH A CUP OF TEA AND A
GOOD BOOK. — BILL WATTERSON

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the



store.

Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through

Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Safety

Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE	
02 SAT	CARIBBEAN PRINCESS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
05 TUE	CELEBRITY SILHOUTTE Arrival: 08:00 Departure: 17:00 Berth: B CARNIVAL MAGIC Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
06 WED	GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 11:59 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
12 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
19 TUE	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C
20 WED	ALLURE OF THE SEAS Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: I CARNIVAL VISTA Arrival: 7:00 Departure: 16:00 Berth: C
21 THU	CARNIVAL VENEZIA Arrival: 9:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: C
26 TUE	CARNIVAL HORIZON Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 22:00 Berth: B GRANDEUR OF THE SEAS Arrival: 8:00 Departure: 23:00 Berth: C

SUDOKU

To play sudoku, use logic to fill the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 only once. Puzzle difficulty increases from Monday to Sunday.

King Classic Sudoku

1	8			4	2			5
			5			8		1
	5		3		1			
5		2			8	3		
	3			6		1	7	
	1		9			6	5	
	7	1	2				8	
		8				2		7
2	9	5	8	3	7	4	1	6

Difficulty: ★★

4/28

Answer to previous puzzle

6	5	1	4	3	8	2	9	7
3	8	9	2	5	7	1	6	4
2	4	7	6	1	9	3	8	5
5	7	3	1	2	6	9	4	8
8	1	2	7	9	4	6	5	3
4	9	6	3	8	5	7	1	2
9	6	4	8	7	2	5	3	1
7	3	5	9	4	1	8	2	6
1	2	8	5	6	3	4	7	9

Difficulty: ★

4/27

Warming El Nino set to return in mid-2026: U.N.



General view of lagoons in "Pan de Azucar" Natural Park at the Paramo el Consuelo in Belen, Boyaca Department, Colombia, taken on April 21, 2024.

Geneva, Switzerland

The El Nino weather phenomenon, which pushed global temperatures to record highs the last time around, is expected to return in mid-2026, the U.N. said Friday.

The United Nations' weather and climate agency said El Nino conditions could well develop as early as May to July.

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) meanwhile said early signs indicated a particularly strong event.

El Nino is a naturally-occurring climate phenomenon that warms surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, bringing worldwide changes in winds, pressure and rainfall patterns.

Conditions oscillate between El Nino and its opposite La Nina, with neutral conditions in between.

The last El Nino contributed to making 2023 the second-hottest year on record and 2024 the all-time high.

"After a period of neutral conditions at the start of the year... there is high confidence in the onset of El Nino, followed by further intensification," said Wilfran Moufouma-Okia, the WMO's climate prediction chief.

El Nino typically occurs every two to seven years and lasts around nine to 12 months. The WMO said in its latest monthly Global Seasonal Climate Update that sea surface temperatures are rising rapidly in the equatorial Pacific, "pointing to a likely return of El Nino conditions as early as May-July."

Forecasts indicate a "nearly global dominance of above-normal land surface temperatures" in the next three months.

- Temperature spike -

"There is no evidence that climate change increases the frequency or intensity of El Nino events," the Geneva-based WMO said. "But it can amplify associated impacts." The WMO explained that 2024 was the hottest year ever recorded "because of the combination of the powerful 2023-2024 El Nino and human-induced climate change from greenhouse gases".

While forecasting accuracy improves after April, "what

we can say for certain is that the El Nino will be strong", Moufouma-Okia said.

El Nino is typically associated with increased rainfall in southern South America, the southern United States, the Horn of Africa and central Asia, and drought over Australia, Indonesia, and parts of southern Asia.

Warmer water can fuel hurricanes in the central and eastern Pacific during the middle of the year, though it hinders hurricane formation in the Atlantic Basin.

The WMO hopes advance warning will guide preparedness, especially in climate-sensitive sectors like agriculture, water management, energy and health.

The WMO's April Global Seasonal Climate Update said that for May to July, land surface temperatures are expected to be above normal nearly everywhere. The signals are especially strong over southern North America, Central America, and the Caribbean, as well as Europe and Northern Africa. □

HEALTH



DOCTOR ON DUTY

Oranjestad Hospital
7:00 pm/10:00pm
Tel. 527 4000

San Nicolas IMSAN
24 HOURS
Tel. 524 8833

PHARMACY ON DUTY

Oranjestad: Oduber
Tel. 582 1780

San Nicolas: Seroe Preto
Tel. 584 4833

OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002
Urgent Care 586 0448
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic 588 0539

EMERGENCY

Police 100
Police Oranjestad 527 3140
Police Noord 527 3200
Police Sta. Cruz 527 2900
Police San Nicolas 584 5000
Police Tipline 11141
Ambulance 911
Fire Dept. 115
Red Cross 582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas 587 5900
Prof. Taxi 588 0035
Taxi D.T.S. 587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba 583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv. 280 2828

AID FOUNDATIONS

Aruba Food Bank
Tel. 588 0002
FAVI- Visually Impaired
Tel. 582 5051
Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952
Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989
Against Domestic Violence(FCVR)
Tel. 583 5400
Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888
Child Abuse Prevention
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Pogacar vows to keep going until Seixas 'destroys' him

Liege, Belgium

Tadej Pogacar won a fourth Liege-Bastogne-Liege Monument race after fending off a spirited challenge from teenage French sensation Paul Seixas.

But he fully expects the 19-year-old to keep improving and one day blitz everyone in the field in much the same way as Pogacar has in recent years.

Seixas was the only rider able to stay with world champion Pogacar when he launched his customary attack on the Cote de la Redoute some 35km from the finish of the gruelling 260km race through the Ardennes.

That was the ninth of 11 punchy climbs and while the rest of the field -- including Olympic champion Remco Evenepoel -- fell by the wayside, Seixas stayed with Pogacar until the final climb. But halfway up the steep Cote de Roche-aux-Faucons, with 14km left, Seixas cracked and victory was Pogacar's.

"Having Paul entering such a big field at such a good level already at 19, it brings motivation to everybody else now to keep trying to improve," said Pogacar.

"Because, again, he's 19 now and normally your body physically is the best at 26 to 30 years old.

"So, we'll see. We keep working hard to still try to fight for the next years to win as much as we can until he de-



UAE Team Emirates-XRG's Slovenian rider Tadej Pogacar (R) and Decathlon CMA-CGM Team's French rider Paul Seixas cycle during the men elite race of the Liege-Bastogne-Liege UCI World Tour one day cycling race, 259.5km from Liege, over Bastogne to Liege, on April 26, 2026.

stroys everybody!"

Seixas's rise over the last 12 months has been remarkable.

Although still competing as a junior last year, he achieved some impressive results in his debut senior season.

He was eighth in the Criterium du Dauphine stage race, 13th at the World Championships, seventh at the Tour of Lombardy Monument race, and won bronze behind Pogacar and Evenepoel at the European Championships.

This year he has been one of the star performers, winning the Tour of the Basque

Country stage race and the Fleche Wallonne and Ardeche Classic one-day races.

He was also a narrow second to talented Spaniard Juan Ayuso at the Tour of the Algarve and has now twice finished second to Pogacar in one-day races, Strade Bianche and in Liege. He has, in many ways, proved himself to be the second best rider in hilly one-day classics behind Pogacar.

And there is one thing he needs to finally beat the world champion.

"Power! That seems obvious," said Seixas.

"I just have to improve but we can see his level, it's extremely difficult to follow him.

"He's the greatest rider of all time."

Seixas added: "There's more work to do but that's normal. You can't skip the steps so we'll just be satisfied with that today."

- 'It's a matter of time' -

After winning the Tour de France four times, the World Championships twice and 13 Monuments, Pogacar will now look to take on new challenges.

Already this year he won Milan-San Remo for the first

time and as of Tuesday he will make his debut on the six-day Tour of Romandie. In June, he will make his first appearance at the Tour of Switzerland.

Anything other than victory in both of those would be a big surprise.

If he is successful, there would be only two major races he is yet to win: Paris-Roubaix, where he has finished twice in his two participations, and the Vuelta a Espana, where he was third in his only appearance as a 20-year-old in 2019.

But with Seixas in the mix, he knows things are going to get tougher.

"For me, I definitely know that it will be more hard and hard every year," he said.

"So, it's just a matter of time when we lose to him."

Before the race, Evenepoel had questioned whether Seixas could maintain his fine form over such a long course.

He had never won a race longer than 200km and there were an extra 60km to cover in Liege.

But Seixas proved he has the engine and stamina for a six-hour race.

"He showed again today that he is one of the best climbers in the world and he has a very good punch as well," said Evenepoel.

"The whole world can only be saying chapeau to him." □



Kenya's Sabastian Sawe crosses the line to win the men's race in a new world record time at the 2026 London Marathon in central London on April 26, 2026.

London, United Kingdom

Sabastian Sawe became the first man to run under two hours for a marathon in race conditions thanks to extraordinary talent, a punishing training regime, and

the lightest shoes in history. In London on Sunday, the 31-year-old Kenyan achieved one of sport's milestones, ranking alongside Roger Bannister's first sub-four minute mile in

How remarkable Sawe made marathon history in London

1954.

His time of 1hr 59min 30 sec was an astonishing 65 seconds inside the previous best of 2:00:35 set in Chicago in 2023 by Kelvin Kiptum, whose death in a car crash in 2024 plunged Kenya into mourning.

Sawe's statistics were dizzying. He went through the first half in 60:29 and then got faster, clocking a remarkable 59:01 for the second.

Sawe undoubtedly benefited from the technological arms race launched by the shoe companies a decade

ago, when they began developing carbon fibre shoes for elite runners.

The newly developed Adidas shoes he was wearing to navigate the streets of London were the first to weigh under 100 grammes. They clearly made a difference -- second-placed Yomif Kejelcha was wearing them too and the Ethiopian also broke the two-hour barrier, finishing in 1:59:41.

"I have made history today in London," Sawe said.

"It's something that will remain in my mind for ever.

"I had courage to push even when the pace was

so fast. "I was not bothered because I was ready for it. The crowd helped me a lot because they were cheering and calling my name... The world record today is also because of them."

- 'Still discovering' -

Sawe's Italian coach Claudio Berardelli told reporters he was honoured to be guiding such a unique talent.

"All of the pieces came together perfectly because of his attitude, because of his character. I am still in the process of discovering who Sabastian is," he said. □



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Sabalenka reaches Madrid Open quarters, Gauff bows out

Madrid, Spain

World number one Aryna Sabalenka overcame Naomi Osaka 6-7 (1/7), 6-3, 6-2 in a gripping battle on Monday to reach the Madrid Open quarter-finals.

Third seed Coco Gauff was eliminated in a three-set battle with Linda Noskova decided on a final set tie-break.

Sabalenka, who has claimed titles at Miami, Indian Wells and Brisbane this year, was tested by her Japanese opponent in the fourth-round clash but came back from a set and a break down to triumph.

"I was just trying to take one ball at a time and my team was there for me, they really (pushed) me to keep fighting, and I'm really happy that I didn't give up and I was pushing until the very last point," said Sabalenka on court.

She later told reporters: "When (she) put me under pressure, I was able to pull out really incredible shots and incredible tennis. So I'm happy."

The first set between the two four-time Grand Slam winners was tight, with only one break point forced, by Sabalenka, which Osaka saved to hold for 2-1.

Osaka dominated in the tie-break, ripping into a 5-0 lead and then triumphing when Sabalenka lashed a return wide.

Sabalenka stepped up a gear in the second frame, although world number 15 Osaka dug deep to survive three break points and then managed to engineer a break for herself to take a 2-1 lead.

However, the Belarusian immediately broke to love and then again in the eighth

game, serving out to take the second set.

Only Elena Rybakina has beaten Sabalenka this year, in the Australian Open final, and the 27-year-old dominated in the third set, securing breaks in the fifth and seventh games while Osaka could not put pressure on her opponent's serve.

Sabalenka sealed her victory serving to love with an ace to

reach the last eight, where she will face American Hailey Baptiste, who beat Belinda Bencic in three sets, including losing a tie break 16-14 in the second.

"She's an incredible player, we had a really tight match in Miami, and especially here in Madrid I think this surface suits her game," added Sabalenka. □



Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka returns the ball to Japan's Naomi Osaka during their 2026 WTA Tour Madrid Open tennis tournament women's singles match at the Caja Magica in Madrid, on April 27, 2026.



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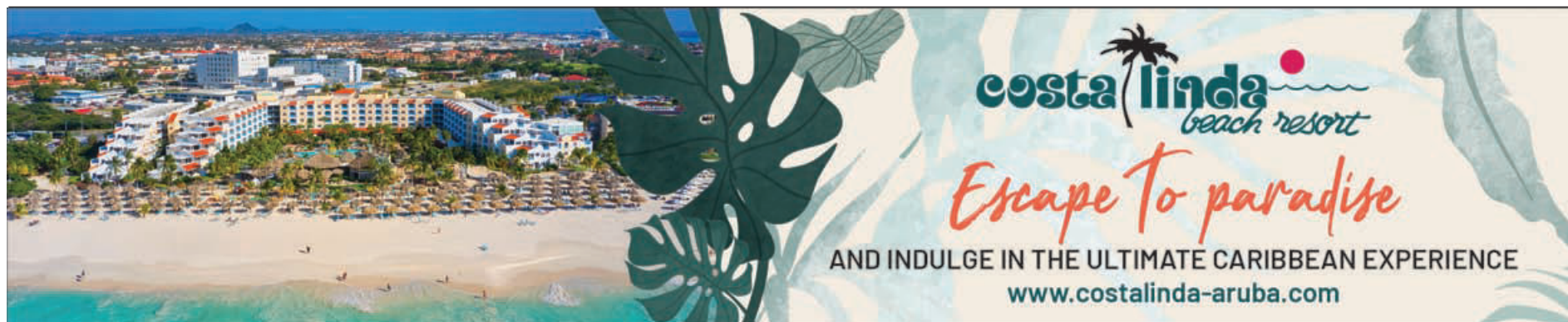
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Create precious memories in the heart of Costa Linda Beach Resort Water's Edge Restaurant offers the complete vacation experience!



(Eagle Beach) – Consider your family dinner plans taken care of at Water's Edge. Located in the heart of the Costa Linda Beach Resort and on the shores of the world-famous Eagle Beach in Aruba, Water's Edge offers an elegant yet cozy dining experience that the entire family can enjoy. Whether you're craving Steak, Seafood, International Dishes or a bit of the Caribbean flare, Water's Edge caters to all your culinary needs, all the while offering you a cozy and flexible service with a spectacular view of Aruba's top-rated sandy beaches.

Water's Edge's new menu has a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts all on one menu specially made just for you. From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. Flexible and professional service allows you to enjoy your meal in the cool and elegant indoor dining area, on the sandy, breezy beaches of Eagle Beach or by the open bar outside. Serving breakfast, lunch and dinner, Water's Edge has it all for you, any time of the day.

Start your day off with a hearty breakfast. Water's Edge offers a variety of delicious breakfast items, including their house specialties of Avocado Toast, Chicken & Waffles made with homemade Belgium waffles and topped with a gorgeous hot honey sauce. If you want something on the sweeter side, try their Crème Brûlée French Toast, served with an in-house mascarpone whip cream and topped with fresh fruit and powdered sugar. Or maybe the Traditional American Breakfast is more to your liking, complete with any kind of serving of eggs, bacon, sausage and toast, served with a side of hash browns.

For lunch, keep it easy with their handheld items like their Bacon and Cheddar Burger, Mediterranean Quesadillas or Street Tacos. Want a taste of the Caribbean? Try the Grouper Reuben; A local twist to the traditional Reuben, complete with rye bread, in-house 1000 island dressing, sauerkraut and grilled grouper, served with a side of Cajun Fries.

Dinner plans are set with Water's Edge mouthwatering dinner menu. Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the delectable Coconut Shrimp. You can also opt for their Water's Edge House Wedge Salad or freshly made Shrimp Louie Salad, made with poached shrimp, tossed in Louie dressing, fresh avocados and vine ripe tomatoes. For something a bit heartier, try their classic French Onion Soup, Lobster Bisque or Crab and Corn Chowder.

Follow your appetizers with your choice of Seafood, Chicken or Pasta dishes. Enjoy their succulent Shrimp and Clam Sauce with Angel Hair Pasta, a nice plate of Chicken Francese or explore the Water's Edge Fish Market—your pick of Mahi Mahi, Snapper, Grouper or Salmon, served with homemade mashed potatoes, sauce of choice and fresh herbs and vegetables.

Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of Steak, including a Petite Filet, French Rack of Lambs or their famous 14oz pan-seared Pork finished with a fantastic



apple glaze. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi-glace, mushroom sauce, chimichurri or bacon blue cheese butter. Enjoy it with a side of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, and four different types of fries. Combine your meal with your personal choice of international and exclusive wines.

Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled Kids Menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests.

End the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness. Choose from a variety of dessert options, including a piece of coconut flan, NY cheesecake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Live entertainment

For seven nights a week, there is live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, every night is a relaxing experience under the stars, where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Water's Edge prides itself on bringing elegance and comfort to your dining experience, offering personalized service fit for everybody's needs.

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call +297 583 8000 Ext. 8106 or + 297 586 9494 (direct), or reserve your table online at reservations@watersedgearuba.com. For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedgearuba.com □